Appl. No. 09/964,940 Amdt. Dated June 28, 2004 Reply to Office action of March 9, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): An electromechanical 1 switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one 2 conductive switching 3 electrically element (1)with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), 4 5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed 6 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a 7 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with 8 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the 9 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) 10 prestressed in a transition area between the switching 11 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently 12 13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2), wherein the switch housing (4; 6) consists of 14 15 two sections, with a base plate (4) containing the contact surfaces (2) and a cover (6) with an opening (6') through 16 which protrudes a part of the switching element (1) with a 17 18 diaphragm (5), wherein said two housing sections (4; 6) are connected in self-locking fashion by clamping or welding. 19

Appl. No. 09/964,940 Amdt. Dated June 28, 2004 Reply to Office action of March 9, 2004

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

17

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Claim 5 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) prestressed in a transition area between the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2), wherein the switching element (1) is pinshaped and has a round or oval cross section while its end 16 (1'), which makes contact with the contact surfaces (2) is rounded into a convex tip.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a Appl. No. 09/964,940 Amdt. Dated June 28, 2004 Reply to Office action of March 9, 2004

1

2

3

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with 9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) 10 prestressed in a transition area between the switching 11 (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently 12 element pressing the switching element (1) against the contact 13 surfaces (2), wherein, in the area where it rests against 14 the switching element (1) and/or in the transition area 15 between the switching element (1) and its connection to the 16 switch housing (4; 6), the diaphragm (5) is provided on its 17 inside and/or outside with one or several notches (7). 18

Claim 7 (currently amended): The switch according to claim 1 any one of claims 4 and 16, wherein the switching element (1) comprises a metal.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with

- the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the 9 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) 10 prestressed in a transition area between the switching 11 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently 12 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact 13 surfaces (2), wherein the contact surfaces (2) comprise 14 15 contact pins (3) whose ends (2) facing the switching element (1) are hemispherical or mushroom-shaped. 16
 - Claim 10 (currently amended): The switch according to

 claim lany one of claims 4 and 16, wherein the switch

 housing (4; 6) comprises a 2-component injection-molded

 plastic material.
 - Claim 11 (currently amended): Use of a switch per one
 of the claims 1, 2 and 4-10 4, 5, 6 and 9 in miniaturized
 devices.
- 1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The switch according to
 2 claim 1 any one of claims 4 and 16, wherein the elastic
 3 diaphragm (5) comprises an elastomeric material.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): The use of the switch according to claim 11, wherein the miniaturized devices are

3 hearing aids.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in its switch housing at least one pin shaped, electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) prestressed in a transition area between the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact establish an electrically conductive surfaces (2) to connection between the contact surfaces.

Claim 17 (cancelled)